

Please amend claims 1 and 22 to read as follows:

1. (thrice amended). A method for automatically managing energy cost using metering data and pricing data, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving metering data from a utility meter, wherein the metering data is electronically transmitted from the utility meter;

receiving pricing data electronically over a network, wherein the pricing data is associated with a plurality of sources of power;

forecasting a forecast load based on the received metering data from the utility meter;

determining an optimal consumption decision based on the received pricing data and the forecast load, wherein the consumption decision selects one of the plurality of sources of power to thereby reduce utility costs, and wherein said optimal consumption decision is calculated using an optimal cost curve derived from an optimization algorithm applied to the pricing data and the forecast load; and

delivering the optimal consumption decision to the customer via the network.

22 (twice amended). A system for automatically managing energy cost, the system comprising:

a server communicating with at least one utility meter, wherein said server is configured to record metering data received from said utility meter via a network;